

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 3, as follows:

Due to this, the conversation learning section 41 utilizes, as evaluation indexes, a word used by the user with high frequency and the type of the word, a conversation pattern used by the user with high frequency, the continuity of conversation with respect to a specific topic / conversation content (the number of responses of conversation) and utterance time, the number of uttered words and the like of the user based on the input and output symbol strings from the pattern driving section, the trigger from the pattern driving section 31 and the variable from the internal model 34[[31]]. Then, the conversation learning section 41 optimizes the conversation topic / conversation pattern / uttered words, the selection of word type, response interval (average conversation interval) of the system, the frequency / timing of active utterance from the system side and the like when the system utters. The pattern learning section 41 then outputs an average conversation interval and the like to the pattern driving section 31 and outputs a trigger to the internal model 34.